

June 1, 2016

Chilmark Board of Selectmen
Warren Doty, William Rossi, James Malkin
Beetlebung Corner
Chilmark, MA 02535

Honorable Selectmen,

Since the creation of the All Island Planning Board (AIPB) last year, we have been working with the other island planning boards to address planning concerns on the island and to think about ways in which working collaboratively might help us meet those needs.

At an AIPB meeting last fall, we identified *affordable housing* as a need that could be addressed collaboratively. Six months ago, the AIPB formed an affordable housing work group to assess each town's current affordable housing situation and explore ways to create more housing opportunities. The work group has met regularly at the MV Commission on this issue. MVC Director Adam Turner and Philippe Jordi of Island Housing Trust attend each meeting and lend us their expertise and administrative support.

During these meetings, the work group was able to build the trust and confidence needed to agree that the creation of an island-wide Housing Production Plan (HPP) would be the most productive and realistic approach, given each town's uniqueness and ability to address the affordable housing crisis on the island. To achieve this goal, the first step has been to create town specific HPP executive summaries with active participants from each town's housing committee and planning board.

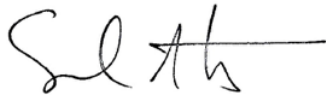
The executive summaries will include (not all towns have submitted a draft executive summary at this point) housing production goals and strategies. Currently, the affordable housing work group is working with the MVC to hire a consultant who will use the executive summaries to help each town complete an HPP and, finally, to take each town's HPP and help produce a final, island-wide HPP. The work group is eager to avoid a "cookie cutter" approach and, therefore, each town's HPP executive summary aims to define the character and needs unique to their town. These town-specific executive summaries are simply starting points in the process and will be used to help guide the consultant. Chilmark's executive summary has been considered and agreed to *in concept* by both the Chilmark Planning Board and the Housing Committee. While the specific production strategies and numbers in Chilmark's executive summary are very likely to change as we move through this process, it represents an affirmation of Chilmark's support to develop affordable housing opportunities both in town and island-wide.

Enclosed, please find: 1) a draft of Chilmark's HPP executive summary and; 2) the PATH (Planning Assistance Toward Housing) grant participation letter that will support the hiring of the consultant. The letter will require your signature of support if Chilmark is to participate in the process of completing Chilmark's HPP and the creation of an island-wide Housing Production Plan.

Of course, there is still a lot to be ironed out and many questions still remain, but the Planning Board feels that Chilmark has much to gain by participating in this island-wide effort. We will continue to involve the town during the process to ensure that Chilmark's needs and concerns are being met while at the same time developing island-wide strategies that will address the lack of housing that threatens our year-round community and economy.

Lastly, please note that participating in the PATH application requires no commitment of town funds. The HPP process will be supported entirely by the PATH grant and by support from the MVC.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hart', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Samuel A Hart

Former Planning Board Member and current Planning Board liaison to the AIPB Affordable Housing Work Group

Enclosure